

many words, "methinks the hon. member doth protest too much".

● (2140)

[Translation]

I listened closely to the comments by the hon. member for Saint-Hyacinthe (Mr. Wagner) directed at the hon. member for Matane (Mr. De Bané) and while his rather mellifluous lucubrations were quite eloquent, I noted that they were rather an attack against the views of the hon. member than remarks on the bill now under consideration.

In his comments he also launched a vigorous appeal to our sense of patriotism. It is always dangerous, Mr. Speaker, to appeal constantly to patriotism.

Surely in this House a member may object to a bill without being accused of a lack of national, pan-Canadian, regional or local patriotism.

It happens today that I agree with the hon. member for Matane. It does not always happen, because we do not sit on the same side of the House, but I agree with him while I note that several of his colleagues do not. That very seldom happens, but I would very much like to see, this evening or tomorrow, one of his colleagues rise and stick up for the reputation of the hon. member for Matane, even though he will not defend his position, because, after all, it must be recognized that his words were spoken in all clarity and honesty. I spoke of patriotism a moment ago, and I can foresee that this appeal to patriotism in this House with regard to the subject before the House, this type of verbal bludgeoning, will be made repeatedly in the future with regard to the 1976 Olympic Games.

Some have said that Olympic coins will cost nothing. I can imagine that in the vicinity of Montreal, Toronto, where there are industries, various committees will approach the industrialists and tell them: Listen: why not put \$15's worth of Olympic coins in the pay envelopes Friday. That will cost nothing, and \$15 is \$15. As for the workers, that amount of \$15 will be fine and dandy, since it will be olympic coins.

That means simply that those coins will spread throughout Canada and that the Canadian people will pay for them.

Why kid ourselves, why be blind? We will pay for that money, even if it does not come directly out of the federal coffers. I must add that, even in the case of the federal treasury, the money will be paid because in fact we will be able to issue new coins to be added to the money supply in the country; it boils down to this: the money will be paid out of our resources, no more no less.

I should like to ask hon. members, specially those who sit on my right, they who are concerned about inflation, whether they have thought of that. This is not a matter of a few million dollars, but of hundreds of millions. And to come back again briefly to the allusion I made a while ago, it is not so much the fact that Canada will have to pay that bothers me but the fact that some would claim, here, in this House, that Canada and the Canadians will not pay; I would rather another bill were introduced and the hon. members grouped here, who represent all areas of Canada,

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were told: Now, listen: the Olympic Games are our business and we will pay what must be paid.

[English]

However, Mr. Speaker, as I suggested a while ago, to stand in opposition to this bill is not particularly easy. It is a topic that appeals to nationalism, athleticism, the youth, brotherhood and all that is best in sport. One feels a certain uneasiness in standing and attacking the principle of this bill. I suggest that we in this House cannot wash our hands of this matter. We cannot say it really belongs to another jurisdiction, in the manner of Pontius Pilate when, while washing his hands in a basin, said in effect, "I will leave it to another court. It really has nothing to do with me." This matter really has an awful lot to do with us.

As the hon. member for Fraser Valley West (Mr. Rose) indicated this afternoon, there are many ways in which the people of Canada will be paying for this venture. Like him, I certainly do not begrudge the fact that if the event is held, police services must be provided by the federal authorities. Fair enough. I do not begrudge the services of personnel of the federal government being offered for the event. Fair enough. What I begrudge is the indirect and almost sneaky way in which we are levying taxes on the people of Canada to pay for this event.

Perhaps the worst example, not so much in terms of the quantity of money involved, because the coinage issue will certainly take care of that, is that of a lottery. We must admit that a lottery is fundamentally a tax on the poor. If one is against lotteries, one might be accused of being a little square because there are getting to be quite a few in this country. I am not against lotteries as long as they do not pretend to do the job that proper and equitable taxation should do. I think lotteries are fine for frivolous purposes. They are fine for those who like to gamble a little money to support a purpose that is not too serious. But when a lottery is approved by a state and pretends to support hospitals—

Mr. Yewchuk: How about the Manitoba sweepstakes?

Mr. Harney: My opposition is absolute as long as the lottery pretends to support something that is worth while. I say, go to the people directly and honestly and ask them to pay their way through taxes. A lottery is a tax on the poor. It is one of the most infamous ways for a government to raise money. Canadians will pay. As I said a while ago, if they decide on this event they should pay because the event is in Canada and is being held here not just for the world but for the sake of Canada. We should be prepared to finance it directly. However, once we realize we are going to finance it, the proposals put forward by the hon. member for Matane become very real.

There are other things that we should be doing in this country at this moment rather than setting up another Pharaonic monument to the mayor of Montreal. By the way, I think it is important to state at this stage that if this kind of Olympic venture were to be held in the city of Toronto, part of which I represent, I would oppose it; if it were held in Vancouver, I would oppose it: it has nothing to do with the fact that it is being held in Montreal, although the contrast between what Montreal as a major metropolis of this country needs and what it is going to be